(b) the rules in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat does not allocate kerosene oil on the basis of said rules; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to State/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs.

The quantity of PDS Kerosene for distribution per card holder is decided by the concerned State Govt./UT and the same varies from State to State.

Subsidy on Petrol and Diesel

1589. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no subsidy is provided on petrol and diesel for ONGC and MRPL but it is available only for State-run marketing like BPCL and HPCL; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing the subsidy to company like ONGC and MRPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In the context of unprecedented rise in international oil prices, Government adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst the three stakeholders, namely the consumers, the PSU oil marketing companies and the Government, to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. Government along with oil companies has decided to absorb 87.5% of the burden of the escalated international prices of crude oil, leaving only a balance of 12.5% to be borne by the consumers by way of incease in petrol and diesel prices.

The oil marketing companies, *viz.*, IOCL, HPCL and BPCL are estimated to be suffering a total under-recovery of over Rs. 73,500 crore during the current year. ONGC/MRPL are not 'oil marketing companies', but are in upstream and refining sector respectively. They also do not market PDS kerosene and LPG.

Revenue from Domestic LPG

1590. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are again planning to increase the prices of domestic LPG;

(b) if so, what are the reasons, which force Government to increase the LPG price in very three/four months; and

(c) how much revenue Government generate every year from domestic LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) There is no such proposal currently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Excise Duty and Customs Duty on domestic LPG has been reduced to 'Nill' *w.e.f.* 1.3.2005. As such there is no revenue generation to Central Government from this product.

Oil and Gas reserves in Bay of Bengal

1591. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge resources of oil and natural gas in the Bay of Bengal and in Mahanadi Basin in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for proper exploration of oil and natural gas from the Bay of Bengal and Mahanadi Basin in Orissa?